United Nations S/2006/368

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 June 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 30 April 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-37925 (E) 120606

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from [illegible] to 30 April 2006.

2. As at 30 April 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16 [illegible] included 7 [illegible] troops from [illegible] countries.

3. There was no change in the number of participating [illegible] countries contributing.

Security

4. The overall situation in Kosovo remains calm but fragile. The third round of status talks was held in Vienna on 3 April 2006. The talks were reported as rather unsuccessful and disappointing, owing to the fact that neither side was willing to compromise on the important issue of decentralization. Belgrade continues to press for an entity in Kosovo like the Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Pristina seeks ethnically neutral municipalities. Neither side appears flexible at this time. The people of Kosovo continue to closely monitor the status talks process and the diplomacy associated with it. The ongoing process of status negotiation, and its possible outcome, could potentially have implications for the overall stability in Kosovo.

5. During the period, very few inter-ethnic incidents [illegible] were reported and the overall inter-ethnic situation in Kosovo remains calm. It is assessed that the Kosovo Albanians will not want to cause any inter-ethnic unrest because of the possible repercussions it could have on the status talks.

6. No incidents were recorded against KFOR.

7. A total of 408 incidents related to unexploded ordnance, illegal weapons possession, weapons and ammunition findings, drugs, human trafficking and counterfeit currency were reported during the past month. Weapon seizures made up the vast majority of incidents in April 2006. In March 2006, 405 incidents were reported. Smuggling activities will continue to be one of the highest threats towards a safe and secure environment within Kosovo and KFOR troops in Kosovo. There could be confrontations if KFOR soldiers cross paths with smugglers. Most of the Kosovo border is affected by smuggling activity, most of the smuggling is concentrated in the eastern area, however, on the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[a] Even with the frequent seizure of illegal weapons there is no proof that the weapons were intended for extremist or criminal groups. It is important to note that most of the weapons found are probably intended for hunting or personal protection. Most of the weapon finds result in a small number of weapons, therefore there is no known link to possible weapon caches. Drug trafficking is still considered to be one of the most profitable criminal businesses for local organized crime groups. The limited number of reported smuggling-related incidents is assessed to be the result of efforts made by KFOR and UNMIK to fight illegal trafficking along the borders. However, this may also be an indicator that the smugglers are finding new ways to avoid detection by UNMIK and KFOR. Even as the weather conditions are improving, no significant increase of reported criminal

[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Compliance by the Federal Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. Two cases of non-compliance have been opened.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The KFOR Inspectorate for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) ensures compliance through the day to day supervision of KPC using unannounced full, calls and inspections. The main focus for the Inspectorate in April was the development of an additional training management programme for KPC in support of the Joint Force Command directive.

11. There is nothing significant to report on KPC activities.

12. The current active personnel establishment is 3,038. There are 207 (6.8%) active ethnic minority members (181 male, 26 female): 35 Ashkali, 4 Roma, 11 Egyptian, 17 Croat, 12 Bosniacs, 14 Muslim, 76 Turk, 2 Goran and 56 Serb. The total number of ethnic minorities increased 27 from the previous month. The recruitment of minorities remains a KPC priority. Currently, the percentage of minorities within KPC still remains short of the 10 per cent goal set out in Standard 8. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 2,000 positions, 1,883 filled, of which the ethnic minority number is 54 (2.8%), which is an increase of 14 from the previous month. KFOR Inspectorate headquarters carried out 44 roll-calls. A total of 894 (67.7%) of 1,321 checked KPC members were on duty in their barracks and 168 (12.7%) on duty elsewhere. The active duty strength of 1,062 (duty in barracks and duty elsewheres) shows that an average of 80 per cent of KPC personnel attended work schedules. Roll-calls show a slight decrease in the number of personnel reported absent without permission.

13. KPC conducted training in accordance with the training plan for 2006.

14. There are no significant ceremonies to report.

Conclusion

15. The overall situation in Kosovo will remain fragile because of the ongoing status talks and the possible increase in inter-ethnic tension as the weather conditions improve. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level for KFOR is low.